

the 1917 N.A.A.C.P. Spingarn Achievement Medal, and honorary Doctorate of Music from Howard University and Atlanta University in 1920. In addition, Mr. Burleigh mentored Paul Robeson, Marion Anderson, Roland Hayes and Enrico Caruso who would go on to make their own exciting contributions to our nation's musical story.

Mr. Burleigh's legacy of social justice lives on through The Harry T. Burleigh Society. Formed in 2017, the society continues Burleigh's important legacy of disrupting boundaries and challenging social norms to address issues of our time. The Center for Peace, Equity & Justice at Friends Seminary School in New York City, coordinated an education/postcard campaign that was sent to Community Board Six in Manhattan, further highlighting his importance in American social justice to our beloved city.

The co-naming on September 12, 2021 at the South East corner of 16th Street and Third Avenue, Harry T. Burleigh Place, stands now as a testament to his important work as a baritone soloist, choral director, music arranger, editor, mentor, and a New York Community leader.

Harry Burleigh contributed so much to New York and the world, adding his sonorous and unique brand of spiritual signing to our ever-growing chorus of American culture. I am pleased to add my own voice to that chorus today in recognition and remembrance of this great man.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE PARTNERSHIP OF DOUGLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (PDCG)

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of The Partnership of Douglas County Governments (PDCG). The PDCG consists of nine local government entities working collaboratively for the greater good of Douglas County's 380,000 residents on impactful issues, projects, and programs.

During the last 20 years, through their collective allegiance to a single mission, the group has focused on creating better communities for their constituents. Since its inception, PDCG accomplishments have included: the Housing Partnership and the Youth Initiative; the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative; collaborative emergency management and public safety; transportation improvements; open space, parks, trails, and recreation initiatives; health and human services programs; as well as specific public health efforts, such as their 18-month COVID-19 Community Response.

In 2017, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) nominated PDCG for both the Strategic Leadership & Governance Award and the Community Partnership Award. PDCG also works together to strengthen community bonds and protect its citizens. It is a privilege to have such an organization in Colorado's Fourth District.

The dedicated members of the Partnership of Douglas County Governments serve our community in countless ways every day. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize their hard work and determination.

HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2793, the "Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2022." The Highlands Conservation Act, a bipartisan land conservation program funded through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), protects critical conservation areas in the Mid-Atlantic Highlands of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut. The Highlands is a nationally significant landscape that yields benefits and resources to more than 11 million Americans.

A boon to our agriculture and tourism economy, the bill authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the U.S. Forest Service to work together to help the Highland states, local governments, nonprofits and private forest and farm landowners to conserve the land and natural resources of the Highlands region, helping to lower costs for local farmers and preserve open spaces.

Since 2007, \$70 million in funding has been awarded through the Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program to the four States, including \$20 million to New York. The program has helped preserve nearly 11,000 acres in the Highlands region, including over 4,000 in the state of New York alone.

This bill will improve upon the already popular land conservation partnership projects made possible by the Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program. In consultation with conservation groups and the FWS, the Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act:

Reauthorizes this important program through 2028 with \$20 million in annual funding.

Authorizes set-aside funding for the FWS to administer the program in a manner consistent with appropriations and other administered FWS programs.

Includes a process in which states can petition for new areas to be included in the Highlands region, thus allowing for expansion of the eligible areas.

Provides states with more complete information of what areas are ecologically connected.

Allows the petition process to be administered on a rolling basis to eliminate possible bottlenecks.

Gives FWS approval authority in the petition process, to remain consistent with how the program is currently administered.

Allows the FWS to modernize the science of conservation resource values in the region.

Responsible conservation is important for maintaining this country's beautiful lands. Mr. Speaker, the Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2022 achieves such ends, so I am proud to support this significant piece of legislation and urge my colleagues to as well.

RECOGNIZING JEAN HAMIL, NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jean Hamil for her position as National President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary. Jean Hamil has had a rewarding career in serving the Auxiliary in a plethora of capacities and her work has impacted veterans across the United States, including those veterans who are a part of our very own community in Buffalo.

Jean Hamil's father, George W. Nunnery, is a Korean War Veteran who served in the U.S. Navy from 1952 to 1973. Her father's service allowed her to become a Life Member of the East Seminole County Auxiliary 10139.

In addition to working as the Auxiliary, District and Department President, Jean Hamil has worked on the national level, serving as a National District Council Member and the National Director of the Membership Program. She is also a life Member of the VFW National Home for Children and a member of the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary, which works to serve struggling families.

In addition to being National President of the VFW Auxiliary, Jean Hamil is employed by the Food Safety & Environmental Compliance for A. Duda & Sons, Incorporation as a Manager.

By combining her lifelong passion of supporting our veterans, with her hobby and love of quilting, Jean Hamil formed a small group called the "Quilting Angels." The group creates quilts for veterans at the Orlando VA Healthcare Center, Quilts of Valor-Orange and Seminole counties, as well as for children who are located at the Safe House center and seniors in Seminole County.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the hard work of Jean Hamil. Her hard work and dedication to our veterans throughout her rich career is something to truly admire, and something to continue to be grateful for as she continues her service as the National President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY AND SCHWEITZER ENGINEERING LABORATORIES

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the historic partnership between Washington State University (WSU) and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL).

On Monday, April 18, 2022, Washington State University announced a gift of \$20 million from Dr. and Mrs. Ed Schweitzer and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories. This is

the single-largest philanthropic donation ever made to WSU's Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture, and it will go towards building the brand new, state-of-the-art Schweitzer Engineering Hall at WSU's campus in Pullman, Wash.

Dr. Schweitzer is a WSU alumnus and former professor who has participated in years of research collaborations with the university. He is also the founder of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, which is Washington's 5th Congressional District's largest private employer.

Since its founding, SEL has employed hundreds of Washington State Cougars, including nearly 450 currently working at the company. This historic contribution represents an exciting new chapter in a long-standing and successful partnership between WSU and SEL that will undoubtedly contribute to new learning opportunities for the next generation of leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

I am incredibly proud of the leadership at WSU and SEL, and I am grateful to call the Schweitzers my friends. Their generous contributions and unwavering commitment to the future leaders of our nation is vital to ushering in a new era of innovation that will take America to new heights.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this historic partnership and the tremendous impact it will have for students in Eastern Washington. I wish them nothing but success as they embark on this journey together.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Small Business Week, which is being held this year from May first to the seventh. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and provide so many Americans with the means to live their own American Dream.

In my district, Pennsylvania's Eleventh, over half of all workers are employed by small businesses. At the age of seventeen, I became a small business owner and built the company over twenty-five years to employ hundreds in family-sustaining jobs.

I know firsthand how important it is to support a pro-small business environment, allowing them to thrive. I support policies that create opportunities for our country's small business owners to take risks with the knowledge that their success means success for the entire community.

America's free enterprise system and entrepreneurial spirit have allowed so many to start their own small business and live their American Dream.

As we recognize National Small Business Week, we congratulate and show gratitude to all those entrepreneurs across our district and country. In addition, we thank the employees of the Small Business Administration who have helped business owners in Pennsylvania's Eleventh District access vital aid throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They have been a reliable resource to my staff, and we are thankful for their work.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MILLARD OAKLEY

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the late Millard Vaughn Oakley, one of the greatest Tennesseans I have ever known. He passed away on April 21 after an extraordinary ninety-one years of life. He was a faithful husband, a loving father and grandfather, an exemplary public servant, and a passionate believer in his small town and the surrounding region. His legacy will live on in our state's history for generations.

He was born May 11, 1930, in Overton County, where he resided his entire life. Mr. Oakley was the son of the late T.M. and Cordia Vaughn Oakley and was the youngest of seven children. He graduated from Livingston Academy in 1947, then attended Tennessee Technological University, and earned a law degree from the Cumberland School of Law in 1951. He then went on to practice law for about 18 years and embarked on a lifetime of public service.

Millard served one term to the Constitutional Convention, four terms as a State Representative, and four terms as Overton County Attorney. His law experience brought him here to Washington in 1971, where he served as General Counsel for the U.S. House Select Committee on Small Business for two years before moving back to the Volunteer State to serve as State Insurance Commissioner from 1975 to 1979.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Oakley was a business leader who played a key role in the economic development of the Upper Cumberland region. He started in life as a shoeshine on the Livingston Square and checked out as a multi-millionaire, chasing the excitement of the next great business deal, opportunity, or challenge.

If you took a trip to Overton County, you wouldn't have to look far to find someone directly blessed by Mr. Oakley. That is certainly true for me.

A lifetime ago, he became friends with my grandfather, Guy Williams from Fentress County. I admired my grandfather a great deal and learned much from him. Grandpa Williams was the consummate entrepreneur. He had successes and failures, but the latter never slowed him down. It is likely the reason he and Mr. Oakley hit it off so well. When my grandfather passed away, I lost a great mentor.

Years later, I became acquainted with my grandfather's old friend, Millard Oakley. Instinctively, I was drawn to him, and he was kind enough to show me the courtesy of being interested in my life. Eventually, a friendship grew out of an acquaintance and later this friend became one of my most trusted mentors and advisers.

We come from opposing political parties. I am a Conservative Republican. He was a Southern Democrat, but that never impeded his willingness to encourage me or hear me out. Our debates and disagreements were always cordial. There was never a time when I did not glean something valuable from a conversation I had with him. He cared and believed in me, and that meant the world. Count-

less Tennesseans would say the same about this mighty man. There was not a person in the entire town who Mr. Oakley did not endeavor to know. Whether you were the gas station clerk, a sheriff's deputy, or a student—you mattered to Millard Oakley.

What I will always miss is his most sincere compassion. He gave life to the dreams of many. His generosity will live on through his numerous funds and scholarships to multiple schools and foundations. You'll find many buildings at Cumberland University and Tennessee Tech bearing the name Oakley for their strong support of higher education. In 2015, the Oakleys donated Hartsaw Cove Farm, equaling about 1,400 acres in size, along with the farm livestock and equipment, to Tennessee Tech. That gift was estimated to be worth more than \$9 million.

As you venture down Interstate 40 in Cookeville and exit to State Route 111, you will find yourself on "Millard Vaughn Oakley Parkway," the main thoroughfare into the town so dearly loved by this treasure of a Tennessean. Up that State Route, you will find an impressive public library giving children and adults access to thousands of books and a new, magnificent county building, each made possible by Mr. and Mrs. Oakley.

You will also see a modest office in a single-story office complex, which is also home to the local radio station bearing his name, where he worked most days he was in town. You will also see First National Bank—his bank and a major employer in the region. It was through his financial institutions that he helped several small business owners expand and thrive.

Today, I sit in the emptiness of loss. I grieve in the void left by a giant. There is no replacing Millard Oakley, only honoring him by being better, doing better, and leaving this world a little better. In memory of a great Tennessean, who did it better than anyone I have ever known, I pray that we will each take up the mantle and leave our communities a little better than we found them.

SCORE FOR SMALL BUSINESS ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6450 the SCORE for Small Business Act of 2022 which would:

reauthorize \$13.5 million for the program for two years;

ensure the SBA prevents abuse and misuse of funds; and

expand counseling and training programs to provide online webinars, electronic mentoring platforms and online toolkits to better serve small businesses.

The SCORE program provides vital mentoring and education programs for business owners and entrepreneurs.

SCORE is dedicated to helping small business owners plan, launch, manage and grow their businesses. The programs volunteers also give continuous advice and support to the firms.

Almost 97 percent of businesses in the greater Houston area have fewer than 500